			M	
	Application No.	Applicant(s)		
Nadio a & Allano biller	09/848,625	HENRY ET AL.		
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit		
	Terry L Englund	2816		
The MAILING DATE of this communication appear All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT R of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this applied or other appropriate communication IGHTS. This application is subject to	olication. If not include will be mailed in due	ed course. THIS	
1. This communication is responsive to Amdt (Mar 3, 2004) a	nd Interview (Mar 19, 2004) .			
2. A The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-13, and 27-33 (now renumbe	ered 1-14, respectively for printing pu	rposes).		
3. The drawings filed on 18 October 2002 are accepted by the	e Examiner.			
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority ur a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority do International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: 	been received. been received in Application No.		tion from the	
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONM THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		complying with the red	quirements	
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subm INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give			OTICE OF	
 CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date (learning indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in to DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depo 	son's Patent Drawing Review (PTO- s Amendment / Comment or in the C .84(c)) should be written on the drawing the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(c	Office action of ngs in the front (not the d).		
attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT	FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICA	AL MATERIAL.		
Attachment(s) 1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5 Motion of Informal D	otont Application (DT)) 150)	
Notice of Neiterines Cited (P10-092) Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PT0-948)		5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),		
Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0 Paper No./Mail Date	Paper No./Mail Dat	Paper No./Mail Date <u>03192004</u> . 7. ⊠ Examiner's Amendment/Comment		
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit	8. 🛛 Examiner's Stateme	ent of Reasons for Allo	wance	
of Biological Material	9. Other		Il	
		TIMOTHY P. CALLA EUPERVISORY PATENT E		

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800
Part of Paper No./Mail Date 03192004

Application/Control Number: 09/848,625

Art Unit: 2816

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the applicants' representative Mark R. Hennings (Reg. No. 48,982) on Mar 19, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 27, line 6: deleted "provides";

line 9: changed "a pin" to --the input pin--; and

line 10: changed "the pin" to --the input pin--.

The changes to claim 27 addressed an objection, and a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, described in the previous Office Action that had been inadvertently overlooked. On line 6, the previously recited "provides determines" now recites only "determines", improving word flow and corresponding to a related "logic state" limitation recited on line 6 of each of independent claims 8, 32, and 33. To minimize possible confusion between "an input pin" on line 6 with "a pin" and "the pin" recited on lines 9 and 10, respectively, lines 9 and 10 were amended to clearly refer back to the line 6 recitation. These limitations now correspond to those recited within claims 8 (lines 9 and 10), 32 (lines 8 and 9), and 33 (lines 8 and 9). Also, using the applicants' own Fig 7 as an example, although pin PWR could be considered an input pin that receives a first signal 320 (i.e. a power voltage with respect to Supply Signal 310) output from signal transfer circuit M1,M2, signal 320 would not typically be considered as actually determining the

logic state (understood to be either a high or low logic) of input pin PWR. However, pin CLR clearly receives a logic state from the output of inverting circuit/Schmidt trigger 540, which receives a first signal from signal transfer circuit M3,M4, a second signal from C2; and bias signal Bias. Therefore, with respect to the Fig. 7 circuit 700, the "pin" related limitations recited within claim 27 are understood to correspond to pin CLR of Memory Circuit 710 because: 1) first signal 320 from M1,M2 would not be considered a means for determining a logic state of pin PWR; and 2) first signal 320 is not provided to inverting circuit 540.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

The amendment submitted on Mar 3, 2004 was reviewed and considered with the following results:

The cancellation of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 19, and 20 rendered their respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as described in the previous Office Action, moot.

The objection to claim 27, upon which claims 28-31 depend, was inadvertently overlooked by the amended claims within the applicants' amendment. However, the objection was addressed/corrected by a change within the Examiner's Amendment described above.

Therefore, the objection to claims 27-31 have been withdrawn.

Although the amended claims overcame most of the rejections of claims 7-13, and 27-33 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as described in the previous Office Action, the "pin" related rejection of claim 27 had also been inadvertently overlooked. This was addressed/corrected by the Examiner's Amendment described above, and all of the rejections of claims 7-13, and 27-33 have now been withdrawn.

Application/Control Number: 09/848,625

Art Unit: 2816

Note: The applicants' amended claims 7, 32, and 33 were confusing at first with respect to how they had been changed from the previous version of the claims. For example: 1) claim 7 now appears to be a completely amended claim because it underling implies everything was changed with nothing to indicate any original (or previously recited) limitation(s) remained. However, the phrase "a second transistor arranged to prevent drain from the charge storage circuit through a body diode of the second transistor" on lines 7-8 carries over the basic limitations recited within the previous version of claim 7 with one exception, the amended version now has "second" added prior to the last occurrence of "transistor." The rest of the changes within claim 7 are understood to relate to its conversion from a dependent claim to an independent claim.; and 2) nothing on line 9 of either claim 32 or 33 indicates a change was actually made. The previous version cited "the bias signal", wherein the present amended claims now both cite "a bias signal" on line 9 (the underlining indicating the actual change made). This change addresses a 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of claims 32 and 33 described on the previous Office Action's page 4.

Therefore, between the applicants' amendment, and the Examiner's Amendment described above, there is no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art references reviewed and considered show or disclose the apparatus, or related method, for protecting a circuit from a transient event as recited within independent apparatus claims 7, 8, 27, 32, and 33, and within method claim 32. More specifically, none of

the references clearly show or disclose: 1) the signal transfer circuit comprising the first/second transistors as recited within claim 7, wherein the control terminal of the first transistor is coupled to ground, and the body diode of the second transistor prevents drain from the charge storage circuit; 2) the inverting circuit (or means for generating an output signal) receives (or responds to) a bias signal, as well as to the first/second signals, wherein the inverting circuit/generating means holds the input pin high during the circuit's startup, and holds the input pin low during normal operation and transient events as recited within claims 8 (upon which claims 9-12 depend); 27 (upon which claims 28-31 depend), and 33; and 3) an output signal is generated in response to the first, second, and bias signals, thus holding the input pin high during startup, and low during normal operation and transient events as recited within claim 32. Since there is no strong motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure those specific limitations are met, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Claims 7-13, and 27-33 are allowable, and have been renumbered as claims 1-14, respectively for printing purposes. The renumbering takes into account the cancellation of claims 1-6, and 14-26.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication, or previous communications, from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

Page 6

Art Unit: 2816

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

TLE Terry L. Englund

19 March 2004